

## Non-govt teachers staff to get welfare trust benefit soon

Staff Correspondent

Teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions will get the benefits of 'non-government educational institutions' teachers-employees welfare trust following the government decision to provide financial assistance to the Trust within the shortest possible time.

The teachers and employees will get the benefits of the Trust after finalisation of the rules of the trustee board. The finalisation of the rules of the trustee board is being delayed for some times due to differences between the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Education over the vetting of some rules by the Ministry of Law. The Education Secretary, however, has taken the responsibility to remove the differences through discussions with the high officials of the Ministry of Law.

Talking to The Bangladesh Observer on Friday Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed said the Ministry of Education would investigate into whether Taka one crore was provided to the 'non-government educational institutions' teachers-employees welfare trust by the then President in 1990 or not. The welfare trust began its functioning in 1990 and the then President Hussein Mohammad Ershad announced to provide Taka one crore to the Trust.

A sensation was created among the teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions following the disclosure of a news that files, documents and Taka one crore given by the government in 1990 were untraced, at the meeting of the welfare trust on May 15, 1998.

A meeting of the welfare trust held recently at the Ministry of Education with Chairman of the Trust and Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed in the chair decided to learn whether the money was given to the Trust or not.

The Education Secretary informed this correspondent that

he had already sent letter to the concerned offices demanding information about the deposition of Taka one crore, which was announced by the then government to the welfare trust.

On the other hand, an influential member of the welfare trust on condition of anonymity said that Taka one crore was definitely given by the then government and it was certainly embezzled.

It is learnt that Taka 71 crore 53 lakh and 28 thousand were deposited so far in the account of the welfare trust. Two per cent of the basic salary of about two lakh teachers and employees of non-government schools equivalent to about Taka two crore were to be deposited every month in the account.

The activities of the welfare trust were stopped after six months of its inception in the year 1990. During the regime of BNP government the Trust was reconstituted but it could not resume its functioning. The welfare trust was reconstituted by the present government and Quazi Faruq Ahmed was made its member-secretary. The trust again started its functioning in May 1997.